

Executive Overview

In 2004, the Commission of Indian Affairs started the process of developing a Strategic Plan that would assist the Commission in fulfilling the needs of the American Indians in North Carolina. This report is the result of that process.

The major steps in the planning process included:

- Selection of a planning model.
- Review of the needs of American Indians in North Carolina.
- Listing of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the Commission and American Indians.
- Defining the critical factors facing North Carolina American Indians.
- Development of goals, sub goals, and activities needed to fulfill the needs of American Indians in North Carolina.
- Development of a plan review and modification process.

A key point in the development of this plan was the definition of critical factors facing American Indians in North Carolina. These factors are:

Critical Factors Facing North Carolina American Indians

- 1. Lack of effective leadership development and educational attainment.**
- 2. Lack of resources.**
- 3. Spiritually wounded and culturally threatened.**
- 4. High mortality rate.**
- 5. Unity.**

The Commission of Indian Affairs has set forth six major goals that it intends to fulfill by December 31, 2010, and believes that fulfilling these goals will make great strides in fulfilling the needs of American Indians in North Carolina. These goals are:

Strategic Planning Goals of the Commission of Indian Affairs for 2005-2010

- 1. Assist the state's American Indian tribes with understanding sovereignty and gaining federal recognition.**
- 2. Assist each tribe and urban Indian center and other tribal communities in achieving self-sufficiency through all available economic development resources.**
- 3. Increase the percentage of American Indians owning and living in affordable decent housing.**
- 4. Increase access to culturally appropriate preventative health and health care services and to increase American Indian knowledge and awareness of the health care system.**
- 5. Increase awareness of American Indian culture by the general public.**
- 6. Increase postsecondary graduation rates of American Indian students.**